

Educator's Guide

Green Point Environmental Learning Center

Types of Lessons

Each lesson focuses on a different natural resource issue. Whether you bring a group of preschool or 12th grade students, our hands-on activities focus on learning through doing. These programs are led by our trained staff and volunteers.

Scheduling Your Group Is Easy!

Please call Green Point at 989/759-1669 to schedule your group. You will receive a confirmation packet in the mail that will include a schedule of activities and group guidelines. At least one staff person will be working with your group on the day of your visit.*

Scheduling your group takes place on a first-come, first-served basis.

When you call, we will need to know the following information:

- < Date and time you would like to visit
- < Name of lead teacher/educator
- < Total number of students and adults
- < Complete school address and phone number
- < Curriculum unit choices
- < Special needs

***PLEASE NOTE:**

Teachers are expected to assist our staff in leading groups if there are more than 20 students. Be prepared to divide your class into smaller groups.

All on-site programs are one and one-half hours long.

Key: F = Fall, W = Winter, Sp = Spring, Su = Summer

PreK & K

Home is Where the Habitat Is! (F, W, Sp, Su)

Freddie Fox will explain what habitats are and how they differ. Take a habitat hike through a wetland, grassland, and forest to discover the basic life requirements of local wildlife. Make a wildlife friend to take home!

Track and Traces (F, W, Sp, Su)

Follow tracks, scrapes, and other wildlife signs to discover what animals live on the Refuge. Discover types of animal adaptations that allow for their survival. Make your own animal tracks to take home and use them to identify the wildlife in your neighborhood.

Sensing the Seasons (F, W, Sp, Su)

Come see how Green Point changes from season to season. Learn what animals and plants are doing. This program is designed as an on-going program throughout the school year.

Grades 1-3

Bird Eye-Q (F, W, Sp, Su)

Ever wonder why birds fly south for the winter? How do biologists know one bird from the next? Practice your skills at using a bird field guide as you identify birds.

Forest Apartment (F, Sp, Su)

The forest is more than just plants and animals. It is a whole community that can be divided into layers, much like an apartment building. See what happens at each layer.

Sensing the Seasons (F, W, Sp, Su)

Come see how Green Point changes from season to season. This program is designed as an on-going program throughout the school year.

Track and Traces (F, W, Sp, Su)

Discover what animals live at Green Point! Learn how to identify animals by the tracks they leave behind. Practice your observational skills on our “Unnatural Nature Trail.”

Water Wonderland (F, W, Sp, Su)

Experience a close encounter with the earth’s water cycle. Learn the steps of the water cycle by participating in a play and maybe even a game or two! Take a hike on the “Wetlands to Wildflowers” trail.

Grades 4-6

Micro World (F, Sp, Su)

Learn the parts of a microscope and how to use it. Study microscopic life of the Green Point pond using our video microscope!

Migration Mapping (F, W, Sp, Su)

Study bird migration in depth. Using an 18' x 18' floor map, students learn about bird ranges, flyways, and more! Socks required!

Insect Safari (F, Sp, Su)

Collect and study insects to discover the health of a prairie.

Web of Life (F, Sp, Su)

Students learn about food interrelationships by building a food web.

What's a Tree? (F, W, Sp, Su)

Learn about tree parts and their functions. Build a human "tree."

Water Wonderland (F, W, Sp, Su)

Experience a close encounter with the earth's water cycle. Learn the steps of the water cycle by participating in a play and maybe even a game or two! Take a hike on the "Wetlands to Wildflowers" trail.

Grades 7-12

Bird Eye-Q (F, W, Sp, Su)

Study bird migration and how biologists know what they do about birds. Use a bird field guide to identify birds.

Insect Safari (F, Sp, Su)

Collect and study insects to discover the health of a prairie. Use a field guide to help identify the insects that live there.

Micro World (F, W, Sp, Su)

Study microscopic life found around Green Point. Identify specimens from prepared slides, too.

Migration Mapping (F, W, Sp, Su)

Use an 18' x 18' floor map to study bird ranges, migration corridors, and more! Socks required.

Trekking Packs...

- < Provide what you need to do the activities.
- < Allow you to lead the activities with minimal assistance from us!
- < Have an Activity Guide with classroom and on-site activities and reproducible data sheets. You pick it up at Green Point two weeks before your visit.

Animal Tracks Trekking Pack

For grades four through seven, but can be adapted. Discover the fascinating world of animal tracks! Students start out by studying practice track sheets and their own footprints. The tracking pit provides opportunities to make plaster casts of real animal tracks. A hike in the forest will be the ultimate test of students' tracking abilities. The pack contains field guides, reference charts, practice sheets, and more.

Bird Migration Trekking Pack

For students in grades four through seven, but can be adapted to any grade level. Your students will learn about bird migration and how to identify birds in the field. Pack contains binoculars, field guides, clipboards.

Pond Life Trekking Pack

For grades four through seven, but can be adapted. Students discover life found in a pond. A microscope lab reveals the tiny world of plankton, and an exploration at the pond's edge will uncover the world of larger plants and animals. The pack contains a floor puzzle, field guides, collection equipment, and a food chain/web template.

Water Quality Trekking Pack

For students in grades five through twelve. Students will learn about water quality and various ways to determine it. Pack contains a Limnological test kit (with six different tests), thermometer, goggles, and three water quality field guides.

Nature from Another View

Try one of our software programs or check out the video microscope during your visit. Our station features a Gateway computer with a 31-inch monitor and wireless controls. A video flex camera and microscope allows your entire group to view a microscope slide at one time. The computer was donated by Eagle Scout Eric Gorney. The camera and microscope were made possible by citizens who contributed to the Nongame Wildlife Fund on the Michigan income tax form or by a direct donation to the Fund.

Exploring Freshwater Communities

A complete resource for studying freshwater biomes. Includes a curriculum-oriented presentation, encyclopedia, diagrams, photographs, lab activities and a Protists Database. For 6th grade and up.

Peterson Multimedia Guides - North American Birds

Learn how to identify birds with Roger Tory Peterson, creator of the first field guide to birds. Nearly 1,000 North American bird species are covered. Text, artwork, photographs, videos, bird songs, range maps and more.

The Multimedia Bird Book

You are the new photographer for a bird magazine. Your job is to identify and photograph over 60 birds in seven habitats. Once you've taken their picture, you can view them close-up, listen to their songs or calls and watch video of them in action.

Microsoft Explorapedia - The World of Nature

A children's interactive encyclopedia. Explore different places, from coral reefs to deserts, and learn about what lives there. Nearly 100 videos and animations. Hundreds of sounds, photos, illustrations and games bring to life more than 200 topics.

Microsoft Dangerous Creatures - Explore the Endangered World of Wildlife

Learn about hundreds of wild animals. Expert guides help you find them. Sounds, videos, photos and illustrations bring them to life. Test your skill at identifying animals from around the world through fun games.

Classroom Trunks

If you have been looking for ways to enhance your curriculum in school, we have a trunk for you! You can borrow the following trunks for two weeks to use in your classroom. You can call Green Point at 989/759-1669 to schedule a time to pick up and drop off the trunk.

Cargo for Conservation

Learn about species affected by illegal trade. The trunk includes informational materials for the teacher and advanced students, activity ideas, reproducible coloring pages with student information, lesson plans, pamphlets, posters and wildlife parts and products actually confiscated at and within U.S. borders. A good kick-off for studying endangered species!

Michigan Natural Resource Trunk

This trunk is a collection of materials covering forest, soil and wildlife. It includes informational materials, activity ideas, posters, track casting materials, forestry measuring devices and much more. This trunk is on loan to us from Project Learning Tree Michigan and was funded by the Michigan DNR Forest Management, the USDA Forest Service and State and Private Forests.

Prairie Discovery Trunk

This trunk was designed with subject-oriented learning materials and educational tools to be used by groups of any age. The Activity Guide contains nine units that concentrate on specific aspects of the prairie ecosystem. A variety of educational videos, books, posters and even a buffalo costume are included!

Songbird Trunk

Learn about the natural history of migratory songbirds, their other life in Latin America and the increasing problems birds face in their homes. This integrated teaching unit contains an activity guide, posters, maps, puppets, and a variety of books.

Wetlands Discovery Trunk

This trunk helps your students learn about wetlands. It includes background information, videos, posters, books, curricula, activity guide, artifacts, audio cassettes, puppets, props and more!

Wolf Wonders Trunk

Explore the world of one of America's endangered species, the wolf. Trunk includes activity ideas, books, a video, a wolf skull and a wolf skin.

In-School Programs

These programs are approximately one hour long and can be presented at your school or at Green Point. They are free of charge. Please call to schedule a date and time at 989/759-1669.

Careers in the Fish and Wildlife Service

So you want to be a biologist? There are many other careers in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, too. Through an open discussion with a Refuge staff person, your students will learn what it takes to be a part of the Fish and Wildlife team. Geared for middle school and high school students.

Endangered Species

Learn about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its role in protecting endangered species. Students will see a variety of endangered species and illegal wildlife trade items that were confiscated by our agents. Good for all ages.

Birds of Prey

Discover the world of hawks, eagles and owls. The students will be introduced to the different kinds of raptors found in Michigan and their habitats. Students will be able to “soar” with a set of life-like Bald eagle wings and compare their “wing” span to that of the eagle’s.